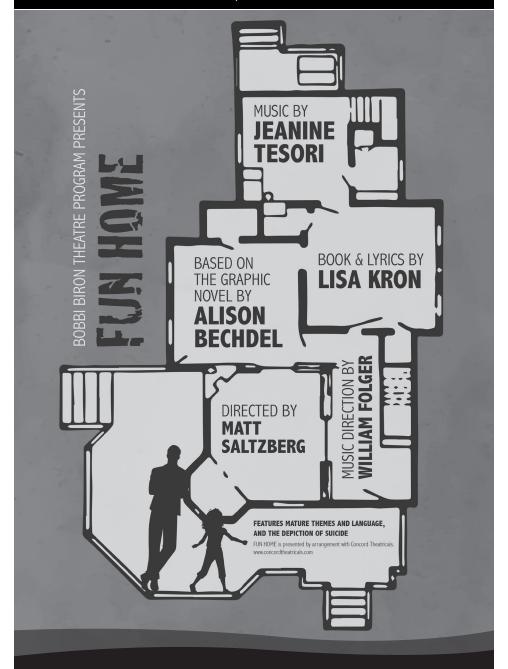
THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS



March 9- 12*, 2023 Fulton Hall, Black Box Theatre 7:30 p.m. & *2 p.m. Sunday



FUN HOME

BOOK AND LYRICS BY

LISA KRON

MUSIC BY

JEANINE TESORI

BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL BY

ALISON BECHDEL

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY

FOX THEATRICALS BARBARA WHITMAN
CAROLE SHORENSTEIN HAYS
TOM CASSERLY PAULA MARIE BLACK LATITUDE LINK
TERRY SCHNUCK/JANE LANE THE FORSTALLS
NATHAN VERNON MINT THEATRICALS
ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG JAM THEATRICALS
DELMAN WHITNEY AND
KRISTIN CASKEY AND MIKE ISAACSON

THE WORLD PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF FUN HOME
WAS PRODUCED BY THE PUBLIC THEATER
OSKAR EUSTIS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR; PATRICK WILLINGHAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IN NEW YORK CITY ON OCTOBER 22ND, 2013
FUN HOME WAS DEVELOPED, IN PART, AT THE 2012 SUNDANCE INSTITUTE
THEATRE LAB AT WHITE OAK AND THE 2012 SUNDANCE INSTITUTE THEATRE
LAB AT THE SUNDANCE RESORT.

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FUN HOME is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

www.concordtheatricals.com

CAST

Alison Daelyn Funk

Medium Alison Allison Dincau

Small Alison Camille Jones

Bruce Bechdel Spencer Tilghman

Helen Bechdel Sophia Merbaum

Christian Bechdel Bryce Young

John Bechdel Grey Reynolds

Joan Sierra Wakefield

Roy/Mark/Pete/Bobby Jeremy Matthew Banister

ORCHESTRA

Keyboard 1 Dr. William M. Folger

Violin, Viola Christopher Sajadi

Cello David Zelinsky

Bass Quinn Parsley

Guitar Danielle Cumming

Reeds Stephen Harvey

Percussion Eric Gehl

Special Thanks

Ryan McNeil (in memorium) Eric Shuster, percussion consultant Mary-Tyler Upshaw

This production will be performed with no intermission.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Matt Saltzbera

Dr. William M. Folger Music Director

Choreographer Jen Leuna Johnson

> Tasha Hawkins Dramatura

Intimacy Choreographer Chelsea Pace

> Scenic Designer John L. Raley

Leslie Yarmo Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

J. Mitchell Cronin Sound Designer Justin Schmitz

Technical Director J. Michael Desper

Stage Manager Grace Quade

Assistant Stage Manager Alwick Blouch

Andrea Sicoli Assistant Scenic Designer Master Electrician & Light Board Programmer Gravson Crosby

> **Lighting & Sound Technicians** Sivan Cohen, James Benedict, Austin Wisniewski

> > & Haley Rawls

Scenic Studio Supervisor Michael Mitchell

> Scenic Studio Staff Andrea Sicoli, Gravson Crosby, Lyric Combs.

> > Daelyn Funk, Annie Geitner, Yzabella Mattern,

Mariah Scott & Andrew Kina

Chelsea Dean Costume Studio Manager

Costume Studio Staff Melissa Florez & Caroline Lawson

> Amara Thomas, Annie Geitner, Elise Kanakry, Stage Crew

> > Aspen Carvajal, Emma Laird, Rhys Dixon,

Salim Ruffin

Theatre Practicum Students Brianna Love, Allie Nowotny & Taila Johnson

> Wardrohe Crew Austin Wisniewski, Buddha Spencer, Amy Malcolm.

Forté Donnell

Light Board Operator Mimi Whalen

Special thanks to Delmarva Public Media

Delmarva Public Media

MEET THE CAST & STAGE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Matthew Banister



Alwick Blouch



Allison Dincau



Daelyn Funk



Camille Jones



Sophia Merbaum



Grace Quade



Grey Reynolds



Spencer Tilghman



Sierra Wakefield



Bryce Young

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BIOGRAPHIES

Matthew Banister (he/him) is a freshman at Salisbury University, studying psychology and theatre - performance. He will be performing the role of Roy, Pete, Mark and Bobby Jeremy in this production. Most recently, Banister took part in the fall play *The Seagull* and was a finalist for the Irene Ryan Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He is very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a fun production with so many great people. He thanks his mother for all her love and support in his endeavors.

Alwick Blouch (they/they) is very excited to be the assistant stage manager for *Fun Home*. This is their second production they have been a part of at Salisbury. Their first was stage managing the Dance Company show. As a freshman, they hope to be a part of many more shows in the future.

Allison Dincau (she/her) is a sophomore at Salisbury University, studying political science and theatre - performance, with a minor in economics. She will be playing the role of Medium Alison in this production. Most recently, she appeared as Ali in SU's production of *Mamma Mia*. Allison is so excited to be able to work with this amazing cast and crew on this incredible show. She thanks her parents and her grandfather for all of their love, support and encouragement.

Daelyn Funk (they/she) is a senior at SU studying communication - multimedia journalism and theatre - performance. Their most notable roles include *Mamma Mia* (Donna), *Our Town* (Doc Gibbs), *Hamlet* (Ophelia) and *Medea* (Medea). They also work in lighting design; credits include *Mud* with SU (ALD), *Othello/*Desdemona with IN Series (Programmer), *The Seagull* with SU (Programmer) and in May *The Maids* (LD). They are a two-time Irene Ryan nominee and last year's "Tech Olympics" regional winner. They hope you enjoy the show.

Camille Jones (she/her) is a sophomore at Salisbury University who is majoring in theatre - performance and minoring in music. She has the role of Small Alison in this production and has taken part in others over the previous year as well, such as Wally + Joe/Si Crowell in *Our Town* and Sorin in *The Seagull*. She's very excited to take part in her first Spring musical at Salisbury and has had a great experience in every moment leading to it! She says hi to and thanks her friends and family who have given her endless support and encouragement to pursue something that she greatly enjoys.

Sophia Merbaum (they/them) is a junior at Salisbury University. They are a music - vocal performance major with a theatre minor. They play Helen Bechdel in this production. Sophia has been a part of many performances at Salisbury including *Mamma Mia!*, *Opera Idol, As If We Never Said Goodbye* and many Salisbury Music Program performances. They are so excited to be a part of this show and they want to thank their friends, family and everyone who made this show possible for a wonderful experience.

Grace Quade (she/her) is the stage manager for this production. She graduated from Salisbury University with a B.A. in theatre - performance this past December and is glad to be back in the Black Box, looking at it from a new vantage point. She has recently finished productions of *The Seagull* (Konstantin), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Sir Hugh) and *Mud* (Mae), a KCACTF nominated role. She is extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to stage manager this intricate production. She thanks Matt and the cast for all the hard work they put into this show, and everyone behind the scenes for making it possible!

Grey Reynolds (they/them) is a freshman at Salisbury University majoring in psychology and theater. They will be performing the role of John in this production. This is their first production at SU and they are so excited to be a part of it. They want to thank the cast and crew members that have made this production such a wonderful experience, as well as family and friends that have always been supportive of them.

Spencer Tilghman (he/him) is earning a bachelor's in accounting at Salisbury University, having graduated from Columbia University in 2019. Spencer has acted in a wide range of theatre productions. Most recently, he portrayed Lloyd in Salisbury University's production of *Mud*, for which he was nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship. As always, Tilghman is grateful for this opportunity to embody another. He thanks his family and friends for putting up with him.

Sierra Wakefield (she/her) is a freshman at Salisbury University majoring in communication - media production and theatre - design and production. She will be graduating in spring 2026. She will be performing the role of Joan in this production. This is her first show with the university, and she is grateful to be a part of the cast. She thanks her family for being supportive of her pursuance of theatre.

Bryce Young (he/him) is a junior at Salisbury University and is studying communication with a minor in theatre, focusing on performance. He will be in the role of Christian Bechdel in this production of *Fun Home*. He has also had roles as a Bachelor in *Mamma Mia*. Young is extremely grateful for this opportunity to tell an extremely riveting queer story and thanks all his family and friends for the support and love that they provide him.

The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program) is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein.**

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

ALISON BECHDEL



"I want pictures that you have to read, that you have to decode, that take time, that you can get lost in."

Alison Bechdel (b. 1960) is an American cartoonist perhaps best-known for her long-running comic strip Dykes to Watch Out For, which ran from 1983 to 2008 and was one of the earliest ongoing representations of lesbians in popular culture. Bechdel has experienced notoriety that few comic artists ever achieve and that women comic artists have never seen, and thus her work exists as a means of creating space for the representation of gueer voices in the media. Beechdel is preoccupied with the overlap of the political and the personal spheres, and the relationship of the self to the world outside. Her work directly addresses themes of sexual orientation, gender identity, the representation of women and heteronormative family life. She is also committed to disrupting the "masculinist" status quo: "I'm a lesbian writing a strip that has no male characters in it — and people somehow manage to construe even that as being a statement about men. My strip is not 'not about men.' It's simply 'about women.' ... What I want is for men to read my work and make the same leap of identity that we [women] have to make when we read one of the 99% of comic strips that star straight white men, boys, or animals." The musical *Fun Home* is based on Bechdel's groundbreaking 2006 graphic memoir. Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic. "Fun Home is about my creative debt to my father." said Bechdel, "It wasn't until I was almost finished writing the book, which I had been thinking of as a book about my father's death, that I realized that was just the surface story. The deeper story is the story of how my father taught me to be an artist." Other works include her 2012 memoir Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama — which examines her relationship with her own mother via the theories of the 20th century British psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott — and 2021's *The Secret to Superhuman Strength*, which continues her investigation of the relationship between inside and outside, in this case the outside where she skis, bikes. hikes and wanders in pursuit of fitness and, incidentally, self-transcendence. Bechdel's comics have appeared in The New Yorker. Slate. McSweenev's. The New York Times Book Review and Granta. She has been awarded Guagenheim and MacArthur Fellowships, and she is also known for 'the Bechdel test,' which measures the representation of women in film. Originally from Beech Creek, PA, she now resides in Bolton, VT.

LISA KRON



"I'm obsessed with thinking about what theatre offers that we can't get anywhere else. Here's a thought: the conundrum of being human is that our experience of the world is inevitably limited by the boundaries of our own consciousness, and theatre is where we go to get around that ... Theatre is not where we see ourselves; it's where we go to find other people."

Lisa Kron (b. 1961) is an actress and playwright known for her critically acclaimed autobiographical plays 2.5 Minute Ride — which moves seamlessly between Kron's journey to Auschwitz with her septuagenarian father, a Holocaust survivor; her Michigan family's annual pilgrimage to a Sandusky, OH, amusement park; and her brother's marriage to his Internet bride — and Well, which is about her mother's extraordinary ability to heal a changing neighborhood, despite her inability to heal herself. Kron first came to recognition as a member of The Five Lesbian Brothers (alongside Maureen Angelos, Dominique Dibbell, Peg Healey and Babs Davy). The group wrote and performed witty, satiric works from a feminist and lesbian perspective. She received Tony nominations for writing and acting in Well, and for Fun Home, she won Tony Awards for Best Book and Best Original Score; the latter award was shared with composer Jeanine Tesori and made them the first female writing team in history to win in that category. She also won Obie awards for Fun Home, 2.5 Minute Ride, and her work with The Five Lesbian Brothers. She won the Edward Kleban Prize for most promising musical theatre librettist, is a Guggenheim Fellowship recipient and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for Fun Home.

JEANINE TESORI



"[I am interested in the outsiders,] the people who are deemed invisible, are outside the power structure in some way. I have felt like that. I went outside myself a lot as a kid. I had a very complicated relationship with my dad, who was a very brilliant and dissatisfied person. So, I became an observer, and when you pull out of yourself and you are watching the world, you really begin to see in a 360 way the people who are not getting the attention. I feel like that's where my heart goes."

Jeanine Tesori (b. 1961) is the most prolific and honored American female theatrical composer in history. Known for her chameleon-like writing abilities, she created the original scores to Nicholas Hytner's revival of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, John Guare's play *Free Man of Color*, and Tony Kushner's adaptation of Brecht's *Mother Courage and Her Children*, and the musicals *Thoroughly Modern Millie; Caroline, or Change; Shrek the Musical; Violet; Fun Home*; and the currently running *Kimberly Akimbo*. She won Drama Desk awards for Outstanding Music for *Twelfth Night* and *Caroline, or Change*, and the Tony Award for Best Original Score for *Fun Home*; the latter award was shared with lyricist Lisa Kron and made them the first female writing team in history to win in that category. She also received Tony nominations for *Twelfth Night; Thoroughly Modern Millie; Caroline, or Change;* and *Shrek*. She is a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, for *Fun Home*, shared with Lisa Kron, and *Soft Power*, shared with Tony Award-winning playwright David Henry Hwang. She is the former artistic director of the famed "Encores! Off-Center" concert series in New York City Center devoted to groundbreaking off-Broadway musicals.

ALISON BECHDEL / LGBTQ TIMELINE

Chicago's Society for Human Rights becomes the first recognized gay organization in the U.S.

1924

1955

It produced the first American publication for homosexuals. Friendship and Freedom. 1928 The Well of Loneliness by lesbian poet and author Radclyffe Hall brings homosexuality into public conversation in the US and England. 1933 Helen Fontana is born in Lock Haven, PA. 100.000 gay men and women are killed in Nazi concentration camps throughout Europe. 1933-45 They are required to wear pink triangles pinned to their shirts to signify their homosexuality. 1936 Bruce Bechdel is born in Beech Creek, PA. 1941 Gendered segregation amongst soldiers and civil workers during WWII provides the opportunity for same-sex/aueer relationships. 1947 The Sex Perversion Elimination Program is created by the U.S. Park Police to intimidate and arrest gay men. This and other government-sanctioned anti-LGBTQ tactics became known as the "Lavender Scare." Alfred Kinsey writes The Sexual Behavior in the Human Male, which includes a discussion of 1948 homosexuality and introduces the Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale, or the Kinsey scale, a tool used to describe a person's sexual orientation. 1950 The Mattachine Society is founded in Los Angelos as the first national gay rights organization. 1952 Christine Jorgensen becomes the first transgender woman to come out publicly. The American Psychiatric Association publishes its first Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), in which homosexuality is included as a disorder. 1953 Homosexuals are banned from government positions by then-president Dwight D. Eisenhower. Kinsey writes Sexual Behavior in the Human Female, which includes "female homosexuality." 1954 Bruce and Helen meet at Lock Haven State Teacher's College (now Lock Haven University), performing in a production of Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shew.

The Daughters of Bilitis are formed as the first lesbian organization.

- After graduating from college, Helen lives in Greenwich Village in NYC with her friend Elly for two years, working as a secretary and studying acting with Uta Hagen.
- 1959 Bruce and Helen marry in Luzern, Switzerland, while Bruce is stationed in Germany with the U.S. Army. They live in Europe for almost a year before returning to Beech Creek when Bruce's father has a heart attack and Bruce has to take over running the Bechdel Funeral Home.
- 1960 Alison Bechdel is born in Lock Haven, PA, and grows up in Beech Creek.

 She has two younger brothers, Bruce (Christian) Bechdel II and John Bechdel.
- 1962 Bruce and Helen buy the house on Maple Avenue in a state of decay.
- 1963 Bruce's father dies and he officially takes over the Bechdel Funeral Home.
- 1963 The first organized U.S. gay rights demonstration happens at NYC's Whitehall Street Induction Center, protesting discrimination in the military.
- 1969 The Stonewall uprising occurs due to an unprovoked police raid. The Gay Liberation Front is formed in response.
- 1970 Alison develops Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD).
- 1973 Homosexuality is removed from the DSM.
- 1977 Alison leaves high school a year early and attends Simon's Rock College (now Bard College at Simon's Rock) in Great Barrington, MA, where she earns an associate degree.
- 1977 Harvey Milk, the "Mayor of Castro Street," becomes the first openly queer person elected to public office, as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He is assassinated the following year by a former member of the Board of Supervisors.
- 1978 The first rainbow pride flag is flown at the San Francisco Pride Parade.
- 1979 Alison transfers to Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH.
- 1980s The AIDS epidemic begins in the U.S. Since the disease is thought to affect only gay men, the epidemic goes largely unacknowledged and ignored by the U.S. government.
- 1980 Alison comes out as a lesbian to her parents, and she moves in with her girlfriend Joan for the summer.

ALISON BECHDEL / LGBTQ TIMELINE

She learns from Helen that Bruce has had affairs with men and that she is filing for divorce. Bruce is hit and killed by a Sunbeam Bread truck. Alison believes it was a suicide. 1981 Alison earns her B.A. in studio arts and art history from Oberlin. She moves to Manhattan after being rejected from the graduate programs of multiple art schools. 1983 Alison creates the first panel of her popular comic Dykes to Watch Out For and it is published in WomaNews. It begins appearing bimonthly in gay, lesbian and other alternative publications across the country and is one of the earliest ongoing representations of lesbians in popular culture. 1986 Alison moves to Minneapolis to work for the LGBT newspaper The Equal Times. 1987 Helen sells the house on Maple Avenue. 1993 The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law is signed by then-president Bill Clinton, preventing LGBTQ peoples from serving openly in the U.S. military. 1998 Alison begins the seven-year process of writing Fun Home. Matthew Shepard, a gay college student at the University of Wyoming, was brutally beaten, 1998 tied to a fence and left for dead. 2003 The U.S. Supreme Court invalidated 'sodomy laws' in every U.S. state and territory, ruling that sanctions of criminal punishment for consensual, adult non-procreative sexual activity are unconstitutional. 2004 Alison marries Amy Rubin, her girlfriend of 12 years. They divorce after two years. 2006 Fun Home is published. 2010 The "Don't Ask. Don't Tell" law is repealed by then-president Barak Obama. 2012 Are You My Mother? is published.

Helen dies of cancer at age 79.

2013

The musical adaptation of *Fun Home* opens off-Broadway at the Public Theatre.

The College of Charleston included *Fun Home* (the graphic novel) in its "College Reads!" program for incoming students for the fall 2013 semester. The Palmetto Family Council, a non-profit conservative Christian organization, responds by labeling the book "pornographic" and protesting its purchase at a publicly funded university: "If this book were a magazine, it would be wrapped in brown paper," said Oran Smith, director of Palmetto Family Council, "We reviewed every book assigned in SC this year. Many were provocative. This one is pornographic. Not a wise choice for 18-year-olds at a taxpayer-supported college."

- 2013 Same-sex couples are allowed to receive federal marriage benefits.
- Alison is awarded a MacArthur "Genius" grant for "changing our notions of the contemporary memoir and expanding the expressive potential of the graphic form."

 The GOP-controlled South Carolina House of Representatives approved a 2014-2015 budget bill that cut the College of Charleston's funding by \$52,000, exactly what the university spent on its purchase of copies of Fun Home. The cast of Fun Home volunteered to put on back-to-back performances of selected songs from the musical without pay on a Monday, their day off to raise funds to cover the costs of the books.
- 2014 Trans students are protected under Title IX.
- 2015 Alison marries Holly Rae Taylor. They live in Bolton, VT

Fun Home debuts on Broadway and wins five Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book.

- 2015 Gay marriage is legalized in the U.S.
- 49 people are killed and 53 more are wounded in a mass shooting on "Latin Night" at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, FL. It was the deadliest incident in the history of violence against LGBTQ people in the U.S.

Six weeks after the shooting, the cast traveled to Orlando to put on a benefit performance for the victims.

"...thanks, And thanks and ever thanks..."

-Twelfth Night, Act III, by William Shakespeare

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- SU Dance Company

Our theatre and dance seasons will continue to grow and prosper because of your loyalty and commitment to the performing arts in our community. I thank you on behalf of our students, our faculty, the Bobbi Biron Theatre and the SU Dance Company.

Sincerely,

John L. Raley

Co-Chair, Department of Music, Theatre & Dance Associate Professor of Theatre

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Salisbury Symphony Orchestra Family Concert Featuring Michael Boudewyns

Friday, March 10 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

Larum Voces

Thursday, March 30 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

SU Dance Company Spring Concert

March 31-April 2* 7:30 p.m. & 2 p.m.* Fulton Hall. Black Box Theatre

Zoe Michelle Bradshaw Recital

Wednesday, April 5 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

6 Strings, 7 Positions & 88 Friends

Wednesday, April 12 · 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

Sophia Merbaum & Katherine McLoughlin Recital

Saturday, April 15 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

Percussion Ensemble

Thursday, April 20 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

World Drum Ensemble

Friday, April 21 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

Recap

Saturday, April 22 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

Recital with Chris Lankford

Tuesday, April 25 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

Chamber Choir

Wednesday, April 26 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

Piano & Strings Recital

Friday, April 28 • 2 pm Holloway Hall, Great Hall

Recital with Eric Gehl & Benjamin Rodman

Friday, April 28 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

EAR Alliance

Wednesday, May 3 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

Jazz Ensemble

Thursday, May 4 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

Bobbi Biron Theatre Program Presents The Maids

May 4-7* · 7:30 p.m. & 2 p.m.* Fulton Hall, Black Box Theatre

University & Salisbury Chorales

Saturday, May 6 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

Salisbury Pops

Tuesday, May 9 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

Dalton Bosserman Recital

Friday, May 12 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

Salisbury Symphony Orchestra Summer Passport Featuring John Kurokawa

Saturday, May 13 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

PRESTO

Tuesday, May 16 • 5 p.m. & 7 p.m. Holloway Hall, Great Hall

Salisbury Youth Orchestra

Thursday, May 18 • 7:30 p.m. Holloway Hall Auditorium

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